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PAST AND PRESENT

AS IT COMES TO US FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE EARTH.

Telegraphic Information Gathered by the Few for the Enlightenment of the Many.

10,000 Chinese Swallowed Up by Sea.
Victoria, (B. C.) special. The steamer Tatar which recently arrived from the Orient brought the news from Shanghai that the loss of life of natives of the island at the mouth of the Yangtze river as a result of the typhoon at the beginning of September was tremendous. To the east of Tamsui, two islands, one called Yawosha, the other Shipowas, distant about twenty miles from Woonsoo, suffered much from the typhoon, nearly all the inhabitants having been swept away. The islands have only been inhabited a short time, comparatively speaking, as they are of recent formation, and are not much above high water mark. It is reported that nearly ten thousand people have been drowned on these two islands and on smaller islands adjacent. Tamsui island itself has not suffered much, being safe above the high water mark.

Terrible Conditions in Moscow.
Special dispatches from Moscow state that many persons were killed or wounded in the rioting on the Tverskoy boulevard at the site of the monument to the poet, Alexander Pushkin, and in the great square fronting the monastery where the troops used sabres and rifles, firing point blank into the rioters. The authorities issued a proclamation giving the police absolute power to prevent assemblages. Many of those arrested were made to run the gauntlet of a double line of Cossacks in a long, narrow court yard, the soldiers brutally beating them with knouts and the butts of rifles until they dropped fainting or dead at the end of the line.

Noted Educator Under Arrest.
C. C. Dougherty, for many years city superintendent of schools at Peoria, Ill., and one of the most prominent educators in the country, is under arrest, following an indictment by the grand jury charging forgery. The jury which is now in session, has been examining the books of the Peoria school board. Within a comparatively brief space of time a shortage of \$75,000 was discovered and the further discovery was made that the peculations have been extending over a long term of years. The shortage, it is said, will reach hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Street Car Men Buy Autos.
The national convention of street railway employees, held at Chicago, has appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of ten automobiles to be used by the union to convey passengers wherever there is a street car strike, the profits from which is to go back into the defense fund, where the \$20,000 came from. The union owns three automobiles, which were used during a strike in Saginaw, Mich. Others were leased during a strike in Bloomington, Ill.

Costly Forest Fires in California.
Disastrous forest fires which started above Santa Barbara, Cal., are raging. The flames swept over a space five miles long and three miles wide, extending along the foothills. Fires are now burning in the densely covered valleys and the mountainsides. The flames have burned over thirty ranches and destroyed houses, barns and other buildings on twelve farms. The loss to the ranchers in buildings alone is \$50,000.

Fatal Automobile Accident.
Walter Palmer of Athens was instantly killed, Chaffee Blake of Kalamazoo was fatally injured, and Mrs. Walter Palmer and her daughter, Frances, were badly bruised in an automobile accident two and one-half miles west of Athens, Mich. The automobile while traveling at good speed swerved out of the road into a marsh and capsized.

Fire in Colorado Mine.
A defective electrical generator started a destructive fire at the Fremont coal mine, near Florence, Col. All the buildings, including the shaft houses, were destroyed. Fifty men were working in the mine at the time the fire started, but all were rescued alive through the air shaft. No estimate of the financial loss has been made.

Three Killed in Wreck.
Three men were killed, one man was injured and a carload of race horses were either killed or so badly hurt that they had to be shot as the result of a collision at the junction of the Lykens Valley branch of the Pennsylvania railroad a quarter of a mile south of Millersburg, Pa.

Death Penalty for Assault.
The jury in the case of W. R. Fletcher, a white man charged with criminal assault on Mary Gladder, a German girl at Russellville, Ky., returned a verdict of guilty and fixed the punishment at death.

Bloody Tragedy at Marion.
James D. Gregg, 35 years old, of Marion, Ind., shot and fatally wounded his wife Maud Gregg, and then shot and killed himself.

Natural Gas Near Michigan City.
A strong flow of natural gas was struck east of Michigan City, Ind., by workmen who are sinking a well for drinking water. Operations have already been taken on property in the vicinity of gas pocket and wells will be sunk at once.

Cholera Epidemic in Manila.
Cholera is again epidemic in Manila according to advices received at Washington. The authorities are hampered in combating the disease by the attitude of the natives who endeavor to conceal cases and evade the quarantine regulations.

Asks for New Tax Law.
Tax laws of Missouri are declared to be a menace to business and moral life by the St. Louis grand jury which has been investigating tax dodging, and the enactment of a new statute is recommended.

Slain in Texas Home.
Mrs. A. J. Condit, a daughter of 13, and three boys from 6 to 10 years old, were murdered at their home near Roma, Texas. The mother and daughter were brutally disfigured. A baby was the only one left alive. All of them seemed to have been slain with some blunt instrument.

EASTERN.

Workmen digging in New York found a large meteorite.

The will of Jacob Litt, the theatrical manager, filed in New York, disposed of an estate of almost \$250,000.

Massachusetts Republicans in State convention in Boston declared for tariff revision and nominated a ticket headed by Curtis Guild, Jr.

Alleging that union men are being ousted the 500 employees of Morea colliery of the Dodson Coal Company, Mahanoy City, Pa., struck.

Frederick E. Carlton, Brooklyn bigamist, was given a 10-year sentence and a mob of his old neighbors sought toynch him as he left court.

New York police have decided that Harry Leonard, the boy who robbed the National City Bank of \$259,000 worth of securities by means of a forged check, had no accomplices.

William R. Hearst was nominated for Mayor of New York unanimously by more than 3,500 men who attended the meeting of the Municipal Ownership League in Grand Central Palace.

A great commercial war against the United States by combined Europe is prophesied by G. H. Anderson, president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, who says the tariff must be revised.

Hugh Hamilton, a pottery manufacturer of Greensboro, Pa., was shot and mortally wounded in a crowded hotel dining room in Pittsburgh by Anthony W. Olson, whom Hamilton says he never saw before.

The Baltimore and Ohio Fairmont express, for Pittsburgh, was derailed at Round Bottom, eight miles north of Mount Airy, Pa. The accident was due, it is said, to spreading rails. Eighteen persons were injured.

Postoffice Inspector Frank A. O'Brien arrested George F. Sulzbach in Pittsburgh for operating a "get-rich-quick" concern, who, upon being indicted, escaped to New York, where he was arrested, but jumped his bail.

Henry Lear, former president of the Doylestown, Pa., National Bank, was indicted of willful misapplication of the funds of the institution. Pending an appeal bond was increased from \$7,500 to \$10,000. This was Lear's third trial.

William Flatley, an expert swimmer, who had won medals in swimming contests, was found drowned in the Monongahela river at Pittsburgh in three and one-half feet of water. He was 30 years old and had been acting as watchman.

Charles E. Hughes, chief inquisitor for the insurance investigation, has been nominated for Mayor of New York by the Republican convention, but declares that he will not run. Another candidate on the ticket also refuses to accept.

Henry A. Leonard, who was employed by Halle & Stieglitz, a prominent firm of New York brokers, as a clerk, has made a confession that it was he who robbed the National City Bank of that city of securities worth \$259,000. Leonard, who was arrested Sunday while on the way to church, had been for several years a trusted employee of Halle & Stieglitz and lived quietly with his mother in Harlem. He is about 25 years old. Leonard told the police that he conceived the idea of the theft three or four months ago and had been planning during that time to execute it and show how easy such a scheme could be practiced on the banks of New York.

WESTERN.

Sheriff Shellenberger of Newark, Ohio, shot by Frank Hildreth last June, is dead.

The St. Louis City Council has an ordinance before it to make efforts to flit with women punishable by a fine of \$250.

Burglars entered the Bank of Springfield, S. D., and blew open the door of the vault. The marauders took all the cash there was—\$5,220.

In a terrific explosion of nitroglycerin at the Ethna Powder Mills at Miller's Station, Ind., two men were blown to atoms and the building was destroyed. The commissioner of the general land office has ordered the withdrawal from entry of about 700,000 acres of land in Arizona to be set aside as forest reserves.

Miss Kathryn Kidder, the actress, daughter of Henry M. Kidder of Evanston, Ill., has been married to Louis K. Anspacher, Ph. D., of Columbia university.

Two electric cars on the Mahoning Valley line collided east of Hazelton, Ohio, killing the motorman, Hugo Wasch, and badly injuring two other persons.

Charles Seuler, indicted on two counts for obtaining \$10,000 under false pretenses, pleaded guilty at Akron, Ohio, and was sentenced to the Mansfield reformatory.

W. F. Lawrence, an aged and wealthy resident of Yankton, S. D., who a few days ago created a sensation by marrying his young hired girl, committed suicide by taking carbolic acid.

The Illinois Railroad and Warehouse Commission is reported to have reached a decision in the freight rate cases that will mean a loss of \$8,000,000 annually to the railroads in this State.

The American Can Company factory in Davenport, Iowa, was burned to the ground, causing a loss of \$150,000, partly covered by insurance. Three hundred men are thrown out of employment.

Two students suffered broken legs, a score of ribs were fractured and other severe injuries inflicted in the annual fight between the freshmen and sophomores of the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Henry V. Lucas, former St. Louis millionaire, who lost most of his fortune trying to promote the old Union Baseball Association, has taken a job as inspector in the street department at \$65 a month.

A terrific explosion of gas under the floor of the county commissioner's office at the court house in Cincinnati killed George Zimmerman, chief clerk of the commissioners, and Russell Blair, an assistant clerk.

Nebraska cowboys wrecked the office of a Maileu, Neb., lawyer who testified for the government in the prosecutions for illegal fencing in of land, and several witnesses have appealed to Governor Mickey.

A prisoner is seeking a habeas corpus from the Supreme Court of Michigan on the grounds that he once escaped to Canada, after being declared insane and that insanity is not an extraditable offense.

Judge Swing of Cincinnati has decided that a \$5 bill is not legal tender for car fare. The case involved the putting of a woman off a car because the conductor was unable to change a bill, and she had no other money.

Papers valued at over \$50,000, which were found on a Cincinnati street by a 15-year-old boy, are the property of James Deterson, who lost them while passing through that city on his way to Virginia from the Northwest.

A passenger whose name is supposed to have been Michael Shielah, either of Bakersfield, Cal., or Portland, Oregon,

committed suicide on a Texas and Pacific train between Dallas, Texas, and Fort Worth. He cut his throat.

A bull fight, in which the animals and the men were armored in football costumes, was held near Los Angeles. Not a bit of gore was spilled and a wild outburst from the arena followed the decision of the judges in favor of the bulls.

Albert Mesel of Leavenworth, Kan., and R. E. Osborne of St. Joseph were drowned in Lake Canby, near St. Joseph, Mo. The men lost an oar while crossing the lake in a boat. In trying to recover the oar the boat was overturned.

A mischievous boy tossed a lighted match into a window at the dyeing establishment of Cook & McLain in Chicago, and a fifty-gallon tank of benzine exploded. Panic and fire resulted, in which several persons were hurt.

A home for foundlings, with infant incubators, will be erected by John D. Rockefeller in Cleveland for the Humane Society. "I am opposed to race outside," he reported, "and have said in announcing his plans to the Humane Society officers.

The National Cash Register Company in Dayton, Ohio, rejected the demand of a committee of the machinists' union for the reinstatement of 300 men discharged. A general strike involving every department of the plant is threatened as a result.

An entire block of wholesale houses, bounded by Salmon, Taylor and Front streets and the Willamette river, burned in Portland, Ore. The loss was \$110,000. The fire started in the basement of the New Era Paint and Oil Company from spontaneous combustion.

Newton C. Dougherty, president of the Peoria, Ill., National Bank, head of that city's schools and prominent in educational and financial circles throughout the country, was indicted by a grand jury, charged with forgery and misappropriation of school funds.

While awaiting the arrival of a patrol wagon after his arrest on a forgery charge, Thomas G. Connor, 40 years old, committed suicide in St. Louis by drinking carbolic acid. Connor was arrested on the charge of passing two worthless checks, aggregating \$150.

George L. Dobson, former Secretary of State of Iowa, has resigned as consul general at Hanchow, China, after only a few weeks of work. He has written to friends in Washington complaining of the mode of the life of the Chinese. He says the natives are rude and coarse.

Owing to a reduction of the salaries of the clerks at the postoffice in Goldfield, Nev., from \$120 a month to \$85 a month by direct order of the postmaster, ten men walked out and only were persuaded to return by Postmaster Collins personally guaranteeing their former pay.

Fire in the lumber district of Rhinecland, Wis., destroyed property valued at \$600,000 and rendered 400 people homeless. The fire started in the lumber yard of the Brown Brothers Lumber Company, and after sweeping its clean spread to the Robbins Lumber Company yards, which were entirely destroyed. A high wind was blowing, which carried the fire into the residence district adjoining the lumber yards, destroying about 40,000,000 feet of lumber was destroyed. After burning over the greater portion of eight blocks the fire was got under control. The homeless people were cared for in the city hall and other public buildings. The total insurance is about \$400,000.

FOREIGN.

Senator Carlos Walker Martinez, an eminent politician and leader of the conservative party in Chili, died at Santiago.

Fresh disturbances between the Germans and the Czechs broke out at Brunnau, Austria. Many persons were injured.

Awed by a British cruiser, the Sultan of Turkey has settled the claims for attacks on British vessels in the Red sea by piratical Arabs.

Six men, supposed to be bomb throwers, including two who are not Chinese, were handed over to the viceroys at Tientsin for investigation.

Prof. Behring, the discoverer of the anti-diphtheria serum, announces, according to the Paris Mail, that he has found a cure for tuberculosis. The nature of his cure, Prof. Behring says, he will divulge next August.

As a sequel of the breaking off of diplomatic relations between Roumania and Greece Roumania will denounce the commercial convention with Greece, withdraw the recognition hitherto accorded to the Greek communities, increase the tolls on Greek vessels entering Roumanian ports and take property held by Greeks in Roumania.

IN GENERAL.

Joseph Ramsey, Jr., has been ousted from the presidency of the Wabash road, this action being a temporary victory for the Gould faction.

Charles E. Shively, supreme chancellor of the Knights of Pythias, holds an Indian is not eligible to membership in the Pythian order.

The weekly trade reviews report continued activity, the absence of speculative operations being an encouraging feature of the situation.

The sealing schooner City of San Diego returned from the Bering Sea to Victoria, B. C., with 732 sealskins and reports that the season's catch will exceed that of last year and be better than for a long time.

According to later information received at Tokio the American cruiser Cincinnati was flouted without resistance, after being aground for seven hours. She has been reported passing Shimonoseki, bound for Shanghai.

It is reported that the notorious Cuban bandit, Chino Oreili, has been killed by rural guards. Oreili had been condemned to death for several murders. Many attempts had been made to capture him and during these attempts two men were killed in the belief that each was Oreili.

John D. Rockefeller, in conformity with his promise last June, has turned over to the general education board \$10,000,000 in cash, which, members of the board expect, will yield an annual income of \$300,000 for the cause of higher education in the United States so long as schools shall exist.

Chester Donaldson, United States consul at Managua, Nicaragua, has arrived at San Francisco en route to Washington to explain the case of two Americans, named Albers, now in prison. The evidence, Donaldson says, will show that the men were wrongfully imprisoned and he intends to justify the stand he took to gain their liberty.

Charles Rilliet, who was with the Fish polar expedition, declares a wealthy St. Louisian has agreed to back him in a daring drift through Behring strait to the north pole. According to Rilliet it is planned by those who will make the dash to cut themselves off from the main ship, and, leaving all, leaving all hope behind, they will make quick dash over the ice-bound region for the pole.



Edward W. McKenna, who was elected Second Vice President of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad at the annual meeting of the directors in Milwaukee, is one of the most widely known railway officials in the railway service. He was born in Pittsburg and entered the service of the Pennsylvania system in 1863 and rose steadily in the service of that company until 1887, when he became division superintendent of the St. Paul Road, becoming general superintendent in 1890. In 1894 he transferred his services to the Great Northern Railroad in the same capacity, where he remained till the autumn of 1895, at which time he had developed an invention for rerolling steel rails and at once launched a company, which has since made a fortune out of the process. Mr. McKenna resumed his services with the St. Paul Road as assistant to the President Feb. 1, 1904.

Jacob Henry Schiff, who testified before the insurance investigating committee in New York that the directors knew nothing of the secrets of the Equitable, that he never heard anything of the numerous "trustee" accounts, and that he doubted the correctness of entries in the Equitable book recording the purchase of \$500,000 of Union Pacific stock for "holding account," is one of the noted financiers of the country. He is a member of the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., is a director in several banks, trust companies and railways and also is a director of Equitable Life and of the Western Union Telegraph Company. Mr. Schiff was born at Frankfurt-on-the-Main in 1847 and came to the United States in 1865. He has served as vice president of the New York Chamber of Commerce and is the founder of the Jewish Theological Seminary of the Semitic Museum at Harvard University. Last winter he was decorated by the Japanese emperor for services in connection with donating the Japanese loan.

Mrs. Estelle Townsend Smith, of Richmond, Va., was sentenced to five years in the Virginia penitentiary. Judge Clifton denied the motion for the woman by her lawyers, who sought to have the verdict of the jury set aside and a new trial granted. Counsel for Mrs. Smith will appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court. Mrs. Smith was recently convicted of the killing of her 5-year-old son Ralph, by repeated and severe beatings and other cruel forms of punishment. The commonwealth's attorney moved the court to dismiss the warrant against Sheppard K. Smith, the husband of the convicted woman, who has been in custody awaiting trial on the charge of complicity in the killing of the child. The court agreed to the motion and the husband was released from custody.

John M. Hamilton, former Governor of Illinois, who died recently, was for many years a prominent figure in the politics of the State. He was a schoolmate of Vice President Fairbanks and of Senator Foraker. Mr. Hamilton was a member of Hesperia Lodge, A. F. and A. M., in Chicago, and was also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Frederick L. Cutting, Commissioner of Insurance for Massachusetts, has come into wide notice on account of a severe arraignment of the methods of big insurance companies incorporated in the United States. He especially condemned the Mutual and the New York Life. He characterized some of the officials as judges and alluded to the methods of the "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Company." He referred to "dubious schemes" and "schemes for getting enormously rich." He also touched on fraternal societies and mentioned the Royal Arch in particular.

J. B. Fowler, of Portland, Ore., is the inventor of a device which, if successful, will make Edison, Marconi, Tesla and all the other wizards of electrical discovery. It is claimed for this newest of wonders that by means of it one may see the image of the person with whom he is talking through the telephone. Its discoverer calls it the "televue." Mr. Fowler, until recently was a laborer in a railroad shop.

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M'CALL MAKES ADMISSION.

Says More than Half Million Was Used in Legislatures.

John A. McCall, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, was on the witness stand before the grand jury Wednesday before the Armstrong investigating committee in New York, and in sharp contrast with his first appearance two weeks ago he made no secret of the immense payments by his company to "Judge" Andrew Hamilton to influence insurance legislation in various States he characterized as blackmailing attempts. It was brought out:

1. That since 1900 the New York Life has paid to "Judge" Hamilton \$476,927.02 for legislative purposes, and has also paid to others large sums for similar work, bringing the total of such expenditures up to \$500,127.02.

2. That in addition to these payments to Hamilton, President McCall expects him to render bills for his services during the present year which will aggregate about \$165,000.

3. That, besides these payments to "Judge" Hamilton and in addition to the \$235,000 paid him in 1903, ostensibly on account of real estate deals and for which he has rendered no account to the New York Life, he was also paid \$75,000 in June, 1904, for which he has rendered no account, so far as is known, for which he has rendered no account now stands at \$310,000.

4. That John A. McCall, who is a director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, borrowed \$75,000 from that institution at 1 1/2 per cent interest. On July 1 last, shortly before the appointment by the Legislature of the insurance investigating committee, the interest rate on this loan was increased to 2 1/2 per cent, at which it still stands, the loan being unpaid.

5. That John R. Hesterman, president of the Metropolitan Life, in addition to borrowing \$50,000 from the New York Life at 1 1/2 per cent, also, it was intimated, borrowed money from his own company, the Metropolitan Life.

6. That the New York Life encourages its agents to get new business on the deferred dividend plan by paying them 60 per cent commission on the first year's premium and only 40 per cent commission on annual dividend policies. This, in face of the fact admitting by the chief actuary of the New York Life that it is easier for an agent to get new business on the deferred dividend system than on the plans for which the smaller commission is paid.

7. That the cost to the company of getting new business on the deferred dividend plan is so excessive that in 1903 the New York Life had to borrow from its surplus accumulations over \$7,000,000 to pay the expenses of business which in premiums yielded only in that year about \$3,400,000.

8. That, although diligent search has been made during the past two weeks, no record whatever has been found on the New York Life of anyone of the three \$50,000 payments to the Republican national campaign committee.

9. That four relatives of President McCall, all of them employed by the New York Life at large salaries, live in an apartment house at 49 West Seventy-second street, owned by the company, at rentals which yield the policy holders only 2 1/2 per cent on an investment of \$263,000, the cost of the property.

10. That President McCall admits there should be a limitation to the business which a life insurance company may roll up and that the legislative committee should give that subject serious attention.

NATION BREAKS RECORD.

Foreign Commerce Total for Fiscal Year Is \$2,635,970,333.

All records were broken by the foreign commerce of the United States during the fiscal year which closed June 30. For the twelve months the exports and imports were valued at \$2,635,970,333, compared with \$2,515,914,442 during the previous year, which was the largest on record. The imports were valued at \$1,175,507,500 and exports at \$1,518,462,833, both new high records.

An unusual feature of American foreign commerce is the small increase in customs revenues, notwithstanding the large increase in imports. Dutiable merchandise imported reached \$800,071,238, an increase of \$311,107 over the previous year. Nevertheless, customs duties last year amounted to \$262,000,518, or less than \$1,000,000 in excess of the duties collected in 1904. Reciprocity with Cuba reducing the duties on sugar and tobacco, together with imports remaining in warehouse upon which duties have not been paid, account for the small increase in revenues.

The articles showing the largest increases in exports during the eleven months for which details are available: Corn, an increase of \$16,000,000, as compared with the corresponding period of 1904.

Copper manufactures, an increase of \$25,000,000, one-third being in exports to China, where large amounts of copper are in demand for coinage purposes.

Cotton manufactures, an increase of \$22,000,000, principally in exports of cotton cloths to China.

Raw cotton, an increase of \$9,000,000 during the twelve months.

Iron and steel manufactures, an increase of \$23,000,000.

Five principal articles showing decreased exports for the twelve months are:

Wheat, \$32,000,000
Wheat flour, \$25,000,000
Fruits and nuts, \$5,000,000
Provisions, \$5,000,000
Unmanufactured goods, \$5,000,000

The reduction of exports of wheat and wheat flour due in part to the inadequate of the domestic crop to furnish any considerable surplus over the home requirements, and in part to unusually large crops in foreign wheat-producing countries. Exports of wheat from the United States during the fiscal year just ended have been even lower than the year before.

Jewels valued at several thousands of dollars have been stolen from the home of H. Van Rensselaer Kennedy, in Hempstead, L. I.

The night law school of the Cincinnati Young Men's Christian Association, known as the McDonald Institute, has been endowed by Alexander McDonald.

Mrs. Mary Klingman, 46 years old, was burned to death and eleven other persons were injured by fire in a remarkable series of accidents at St. Louis.

Acting Secretary Oliver has ordered the establishment of post schools for the instruction of children of officers and enlisted men and civil employees of post offices where there are now no nearby schools.

Dr. Gion Shimose, inventor of the explosive bearing his name, was born in the province of Hiroshima forty-seven years ago.

Anthony Hope, the British novelist and playwright, was educated for the law, but says he turned to writing in self-defense.

Col. James R. Randall, the well-known Southern author and veteran journalist, has accepted the editorship of the Morning Star, a New Orleans Catholic paper.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Chicago. Fall distribution of commodities is of exceptional proportions, indicating that business generally is making satisfactory progress. The demand for money for commercial purposes has not suffered from the advanced cost of borrowing, nor is healthy expansion in industrial enterprise interfered with, funds being ample for known needs.

Dealings were seasonably stimulated in fashionable retail lines and the aggregate buying reflects improved consumption of necessities.

Heavy shipments have been made to many points in the West and Southwest, but the pressure upon forwarders has not yet ceased. Farm work in the winter wheat sections is about over, and this permits increasing activity at country stores in personal and farm requirements.

The markets for raw materials exhibit further strengthening in demand and higher prices developed in pig iron, steel bars, leather and hides, the latter material scoring the highest average in forty years.

Iron and steel commitments